

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Children's Administration  
**FY2010 Braam Settlement Agreement Annual Performance and Informational Race Report**  
**Executive Summary**  
(Updated 5/31/11)

## **Introduction**

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Children's Administration (CA) FY2010 Annual Performance and Informational Race Report includes fiscal year 2010 performance information on 31 of the 33 outcomes the Children's Administration submits to the Braam Oversight Panel in response to requirements established in the [Braam Settlement Agreement Revised Implementation Plan](#) of July, 3, 2008.

## **Performance Highlights**

The Children's Administration met the benchmark, improved performance or maintained performance on 25 of the 31 outcomes addressed in this report. Improved performance is attributed to a number of factors beginning with the commitment and work of staff and managers to achieve better outcomes for children and families. Other factors include but are not limited to development and use of administrative performance reports, development and implementation of improvement strategies, improved case record documentation in FamLink (CA's information management system), and development and implementation of quality assurance activities.

Following is a summary of performance for the 31 outcomes included in this report:

### **Statewide Benchmark Met for Nine (9) Outcomes**

- *Victims of Child Abuse and/or Neglect by Licensed Foster Parent or Facility Staff:* 99.86% of children were not victims of a founded report of child abuse or neglect by a foster parent or facility staff member. (Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 2, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 99.68%)
- *Ratio of Licensed Foster Care Beds to Children in Foster Care:* The average monthly ratio of licensed foster care beds to children in licensed foster care was 2.6. (Placement Stability, Goal 1, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 2.0 or more)
- *Child's Needs Met When Found Ineligible/Denied Regional Support Network (RSN) Mental Health Services:* 100% of children that were denied or found ineligible for mental health services were found to have had their needs met. (Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 4. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Changes in School Placements:* 17.3% of school-aged children placed apart from their brother and/or sisters and relatives experienced a change in school during the school year they were placed. (Services to Adolescents, Goal 2, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 20%)
- *Inappropriate Stays at DSHS Office or Hotel:* No children stayed overnight at a DSHS office or hotel without administrative approval and evidence an appropriate licensed foster family or relative caregiver was not available and adequate supervision was provided for the overnight stay. (Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 2. Benchmark is zero incidents)
- *Continuity of Mental Health Provider:* 94.5% of children were reported by their caregiver to have received behavioral health treatment services from the same provider for each episode of mental health treatment and/or substance use treatment, except where necessary to maintain or improve the quality of care for the child or youth. (Mental Health, Goal 4, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 85%)

- *Comprehensive Mental Health Assessment within 30 days of a Request for an Assessment:* 91.5% of children in out-of-home care received a comprehensive mental health assessment within 30 days of the request for the assessment. (Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Children Will Not be Placed in Institutions Not Designed for Placement of Foster Children:* There were no (zero) placements of dependent children/youth in adult treatment setting such as adult mental hospitals or detoxification facilities, where children and adults are commingle. (Unsafe / Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 1. Benchmark is zero placements)
- *Mental Health Treatment within 30 days:* 97.2% children received services from a qualified mental health and/or substance abuse provider within 30 days of the completion of an assessment. (Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 3. Benchmark is 95%)

#### **Within 15 Percent of Meeting Statewide Benchmark for Eleven (11) Outcomes**

- *Placement Stability -Two or Fewer Placements:* 89.3% of children in out-of-home placement experienced two or fewer changes in placement. (Placement Stability, Goal 1, Outcome 2. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Median Number of Days Youth are on Runaway Status:* The median number of days that youth were on runaway status was 24 days statewide. The regional requirement for this outcome was not met as the median in region 5 was more than 5 days higher than the statewide benchmark. (Services to Adolescents, Goal 3, Outcome 2. Benchmark is 25 days)
- *Adequate Training and Care for Medically Fragile Children:* 86.3% of medically fragile children are reported by their caregiver to be connected to ongoing and appropriate medical care and placed with caregivers who have specialized skills or receive consultation and ongoing training regarding their caretaking responsibilities for the medical condition. (Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 5. Benchmark is 95%)
- *Thoroughness & Timeliness of DLR-CPS Investigations:* 90.3% of intakes (referrals) alleging child abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home care received a thorough investigation by the Division of Licensing Resources (DLR), pursuant to CA policy and timeline, and within documentation requirements. (Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 2, Outcome 2. Benchmark is 100%)
- *Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (ESIT) Program Referral within 2 Workdays:* 86% of children three years of age and under in out-of-home care with potential concerns for developmental delay were referred to the Early Support for Infant and Toddlers Program within two. (Mental Health, Goal 1, Outcome 4. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Adequate Foster Parent Training:* 85.2% of licensed caregivers reported adequate training for their roles and responsibilities. (Foster Parent Training and Information, Goal 1, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Adequate Foster Parent Information:* 81.8% of licensed caregivers reported adequate provision of information about the needs of children placed with them. (Foster Parent Training and Information, Goal 1, Outcome 3. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Sibling Placement (All or Some Siblings):* 81.2% of children with brothers and/or sisters that were removed together during the fiscal year were placed with some or all of their brothers and sisters that were also removed. (Sibling Separation, Goal 1, Outcome 2. Benchmark is 90%)

- *Child Health & Education Tracking (CHET) Screens - Overall Completion:* 78% of children received a complete Child Health and Education (CHET) Screen within 30 days of entering out-of-home care; an improvement from 64% performance in FY2009. (Mental Health, Goal 1, Outcome 2. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Adequate Foster Parent Support:* 76.6% of licensed caregivers reported receiving adequate support for their roles and responsibilities; an increase from 71.9% performance in FY2009. (Foster Parent Training and Information, Goal 1, Outcome 2. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Sibling Placement (All Siblings):* 64.5% of children with brothers and/or sisters who were removed together during the fiscal year were placed with all of their brothers and sisters who were also removed. (Sibling Separation, Goal 1, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 75%)

**Performance Improved or Remained the Same and Considerable Improvement is Needed to Meet Statewide Benchmark for Six (6) Outcomes**

- *Monthly Health & Safety Visits with Children:* 53.6% of children received a health and safety visit from their social worker each and every month they were in care for a full month during the fiscal year; an increase from 14.8% performance in FY2009. Performance on a related outcome measure is included in this report for informational purposes and shows children in out-of-home care visited in a single calendar month was between 89-94% the past year. (Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 6. Benchmark is 95%)
- *Caseloads At or Below 18 Cases:* 75.5% of social workers who provide services to one or more children in out-of-home care had caseloads of 18 or less; an increase from 65% performance in FY2009. (Placement Stability, Goal 1, Outcome 3. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Adequate Safeguards for Physically Assaultive / Aggressive Youth (PAAY):* 57.5% of children identified as physically assaultive or physically aggressive (PAAY) are placed with caregivers who report they received specialized training and received a plan to address the safety and supervision issues of children in their home. FY2010 performance is about 5% higher than FY2009 which was 52.9%. (Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 4. Benchmark is 95%)
- *Adequate Safeguards for Sexually Aggressive Youth (SAY):* 70.5% of children identified as sexually aggressive (SAY) are placed with caregivers who reported they received specialized training and received a plan to address the safety and supervision issues of children in their home. FY2010 performance is about the same as FY2009 which was 70.3%. (Unsafe and Inappropriate Placements, Goal 1, Outcome 3. Benchmark is 95%)
- *Frequency of Youth on Runaway Status:* 2.7% of youth in out-of-home care ran from their homes or placement facilities during the fiscal year. (Services to Adolescents, Goal 3, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 2.0%)
- *High School Graduation Rate for Youth in 9th Grade Cohort:* About 48% of youth in out-of-home care who remained in placement from 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduated on time which was similar to performance on this outcome in FY2009. This outcome is uniquely affected by variables outside the Department's control, including individual attributes of children, factors that impacted children's performance prior to entering out-of-home care, performance of local school districts, and resources and funding for schools and educational resources. To improve foster youths' educational success, CA continues to partner with local school districts, the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction, the Treehouse organization, and other community partners and advocacy groups

who play a significant role in the educational success of foster youth. (Services to Adolescents, Goal 2, Outcome 2. Benchmark 70%).

#### **Performance Information Newly Reported in FY2010 for Two (2) Outcomes**

- *Shared Planning Meeting Focused on CHET Screen within 60 Days:* 51.9% of children received a Shared Planning Meeting that included a focus on their CHET Screen results within 60 days of entering out-of-home care. This outcome is included in Monthly Informational Reports provided to the Braam Oversight Panel and monthly performance shows improvement over time, from about 31% in July 2009 to 86% in November 2010. A number of improvement strategies were implemented toward the end of FY2010 and the beginning of FY2011 that are continuing to result in improved performance. (Mental Health, Goal 1, Outcome 3. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Youth Transition (Exit) Staffings:* 27% of youth in out-of-home care who turned 17.5 years of age during the fiscal year received a multi-disciplinary transition staffing to address their transition to independence between age 17 and 17.6 years. This outcome is included in Monthly Informational Reports provided to the Braam Oversight Panel. Monthly performance shows improvement with 67% performance for December 2010. A number of improvement strategies implemented after FY2010 are expected to continue to help improve performance. (Services to Adolescents, Goal 2, Outcome 3. Benchmark is 95%)

#### **Performance Declined During FY2010 for Three (3) Outcomes**

- *Sibling Visits / Contacts:* 51.6% of children placed apart from their siblings received two or more monthly visits or contacts (not including staffing meetings or court events), with at least one of their brothers or sisters according to the survey of foster parents and caregivers. Children's Administration (CA) is committed to children being placed with their brothers and sisters and when that is not possible supporting their relationships through frequent visits and contacts. CA is exploring alternative information sources that may provide a better source of data to improve accuracy and the detail needed to follow up and ensure sibling visits occur. Caregivers report the primary reasons siblings are not having regular visits and contact (in order of frequency): siblings reside far apart, the child's age makes contact not possible, visits are not coordinated by CA, and the sibling was adopted. A number of improvement strategies are in the process of being implemented. (Sibling Separation, Goal 2, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Initial Child Health and Education Plan Developed in ISSP within 60 Days:* 71% of children in out-of-home care had their health and education plans developed and documented in their Individual Safety and Service Plan (ISSP) within 60 days of entering out-of-home care based on findings from their physical health, developmental, educational, mental health and substance abuse health screenings and assessments. Performance on this outcome is measured through the case review process. It is important to note the review involves a small number of cases and during FY2010 there were significantly fewer cases reviewed due to staffing shortages on the Central Case Review Team, time needed to revise the case review process and tools, and time devoted to assisting with the federal Child and Family Service Review. Despite the small number of cases reviewed, improvement is needed on these outcomes and steps are being taken to strengthen the quality assurance process. (Mental Health, Goal 2, Outcome 1. Benchmark is 90%)
- *Child Health and Education Plan Updated in ISSP every 6 Months:* 59% of children in out-of-home care had their health and education plan in their ISSP updated every 6 months. This outcome is

included in Quarterly Informational Reports provided to the Braam Oversight Panel. Quarterly performance for the first quarter of FY2011 was 79% and shows improved performance. Several improvement strategies being implemented are expected to continue to help improve performance. (Mental Health, Goal 2, Outcome 2. Benchmark is 90%)

### **New Calculations for Annual Screening for Children's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Needs**

The FY2010 Annual Performance and Race Report includes new calculations for FY2007 through FY2009 performance on the measurement for providing children in out-of-home care an annual screening for mental health and substance abuse needs. Past performance has been recalculated based on discrepancies discovered in previously reported measures and changes to the measure the Braam Oversight Panel requested in November 2010. While FY2010 performance data regarding this outcome is not currently available, data for this outcome shows the percentage of children and youth who receive an annual screening improved from 46% to 54.8% between FY2007 and FY2009.

### **Racial Disparity**

The Braam Oversight Panel requires racial and ethnicity data for informational reports on a select group of outcomes. This report includes the racial disparity index for twenty (20) outcomes for which information was requested. Two outcomes for which race and ethnicity information was requested and not included in this report relate to health and education plans for children in out-of-home care. Performance for these outcomes is measured through case review and children's race and ethnicity information started being collected in FY2011.

The racial disparity index shows the proportion of children of color who experience the undesirable outcome in comparison to the proportion of White children that experience the undesirable outcome. A ratio greater than 1.0 indicates that a larger proportion of children of color experienced the undesirable outcome in comparison to White children. FY2010 data shows racial disparity exists with a ratio above 1.10 for 16 of the 20 racial disparity outcomes included in this report.

The Department is committed to reducing and ultimately eliminating racial disproportionality and improving disparate outcomes for children of color in the child welfare system. A growing amount of performance data is aggregated by race/ethnicity and the goal is for most outcomes to include this information. CA analyzes its policies and procedures and management decisions in light of the impact on racial disparity and disproportionality.

CA's commitment to reduce racial disparity and disproportionality includes, but is not limited to:

- Partnering with the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee (WSRDAC) who established a multi-year plan to remedy racial disproportionality and racial disparities in the child welfare system. In partnership with WSRDAC, CA will be developing additional areas of focus for the 2011 Remediation Plan.
- The work of Regional Disproportionality Committees that include representatives from CA, juvenile court partners, Tribes, community partners, and persons of color that are focusing on a variety of issues and strategies to reduce racial disproportionality and disparity in the child welfare system within each region.
- Providing culturally competent and nationally recognized racial equity training. During CY2010, approximately 220 CA staff and 50 community partners attended racial equity training.

- Establishment of a statewide workgroup to identify and examine additional data to better understand factors that may help explain racial disparity for Sibling Placement and Frequency of Youth on Runaway Status and potential issues and strategies within CA's control to address.

### **Outcomes Not Included in this Report**

*Children in out-of-home care will be screened for mental health and substance abuse needs every 12 months (Mental Health, Goal 3, Outcome 2):* Information necessary to measure progress on this outcome relies on Medicaid billing data that is not available yet. The large project impacting reporting on this outcome involves bringing Medicaid eligibility data from the new state ProviderOne system into the mental health database. ProviderOne is a new statewide data management system for Medicaid billing and payments and the large scale data conversion, testing, and development process is complex and requiring additional time to complete. A date has not yet been provided for when CA can provide this information to the Braam Oversight Panel.

### **Next Steps**

CA's approach in FY2010 to integrate the Settlement Agreement into ongoing implementation, quality assurance and practice improvement activities has proven successful. Children's Administration demonstrated measurable progress in FY2010 toward continually improving outcomes for children and families. Additional program and practice improvement work is underway and FY2011 monthly and quarterly informational reports continue to show evidence of ongoing performance improvement. A concerted effort to revisit and update practice improvement strategies for outcomes where the FY2010 benchmark was not met will occur during the next couple months.

For additional information regarding this report or to participate in the continuous quality improvement process related to outcomes addressed by the Braam Settlement Agreement please email [cabraamsettlement@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:cabraamsettlement@dshs.wa.gov).